

## **U.S. Department of Justice**

United States Attorney District of Maryland Northern Division

Thomas M. DiBiagio United States Attorney

Vickie E. LeDuc Public Information Officer 6625 United States Courthouse 101 West Lombard Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692 410-209-4800 TTY/TDD:410-962-4462 410-209-4885 FAX 410-962-3091 Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov

MARCH 20, 2003 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

> FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA (410) 209-4885

## ATTEMPT TO EXPORT MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO IRAN AND MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES ADDED TO INDICTMENT AGAINST CHANG AND CHU

**Baltimore, Maryland** - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today the return of a superseding indictment against En-Wei Eric Chang, age 28, a naturalized United States citizen and resident of Taiwan and David Chu, a/k/a Chu Loung Hsiang, age 39, a resident of Taiwan, adding charges of money laundering and attempted export of U.S. Munitions List items.

A Baltimore federal grand jury returned an indictment on February 13, 2003 charging Chang and Chu with conspiring to export U.S. Munitions List items to Iran in violation of the Arms Export Control Act and the Iranian Embargo. Chu was arrested in Guam on February 22, 2003 and ordered detained by the federal district court in Maryland on March 14, 2003. Chang remains a fugitive and is believed to be in Taiwan.

According to the superseding indictment, the defendants are charged with engaging in money laundering when they wire transferred money from Taiwan to the United States as payment for the Munitions List items. They are also charged with attempting to export the prohibited items on February 22, 2003 when, after taking possession of cavity-backed spiral antennas, the items were checked in luggage for transport aboard a China airlines flight to Taipei, Tawain.

If convicted each defendant faces a maximum sentence of 55 years.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceeding.

The superseding indictment stems from a year long investigation by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James G. Warwick.